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APRIL 2022 Connecting the DOTs

Celebrating 2022 Graduates



Paityn Huber is the daughter of John Huber, HMS in Yankton.

Paityn is graduating from Menno Public School in May. She plans to attend Mount Marty University in Yankton to major in Human services.

Is your family celebrating a high school or college graduation this year?

The May Connecting the DOTs newsletter will feature a special graduation photo section and a link to a video collage.

Highlight your special 2022 graduate by sending the following information to julie.stevenson@state.sd.us by Friday, April 29:

1. Photo with graduate's name
2. Name and city of high school or college graduating from
3. Share future plans as you would like
4. Your name/ DOT position and relationship to the grad

SDDOT Mission:

To efficiently provide a safe and effective public transportation system

SDDOT Vision:

Better lives through better transportation by being the best



The Secretary's Corner

Active engagement by employees leads to increased performance and productivity

Disengagement leads to absenteeism, errors, turnover, and safety issues

Credit: Gallup/Univ. Of Iowa (2020)

Why Employee Engagement Matters!

We recently received the executive summary for the **2022 SDDOT Employee Engagement Survey**. Eighty-two percent (82%) of SDDOT employees completed the survey.

The most dramatic increases from 2019 to 2022 survey results were within Leadership Communication.

- Employees receive sufficient explanation and details regarding significant changes within our agency rose from **37% to 51%**.
- Agency leaders clearly communicate the agency's goals and priorities rose from **50% to 63%**.
- Agency leaders communicate openly and provide sufficient information about things that matter rose from **40% to 53%**

The largest decreases from 2019 to 2022 survey results:

- **Development Opportunities:** I feel my supervisor shows a genuine interest in my career aspirations fell from 60% to 57%.
- **Service Quality:** My agency values feedback from those we serve fell from 63% to 61%.

In the survey, 84% of SDDOT employees indicated they plan to stay within the organization. The top reasons for staying include: work/life balance, job stability, and retirement benefits.

Next Steps: Employee engagement affects all of us! We all benefit from working side-by-side with actively engaged co-workers. SDDOT will receive additional employee engagement survey results in the coming weeks. This information will be shared with supervisors to enable further conversations with employees about what the SDDOT does well, and what we can do better!

You can find the **DOT Engagement Report and Executive Summary** on our Intranet site at <https://intranetdot.sd.gov/employee.aspx> under 2022 Employee Engagement Survey Results section.

What Employees Say DOT Is Doing Well



What employees say can improve in DOT:



2022 Aviation Art Contest - "Design Your Perfect Aircraft"



Ella Ratliff (Sioux Falls) was named the South Dakota winner of the Aviation Art Contest in the 14 - 17 year-old category.

Ella's art piece is entitled
"Suiting Up - Designing My Future"

View all 2022 winning entries at . . .

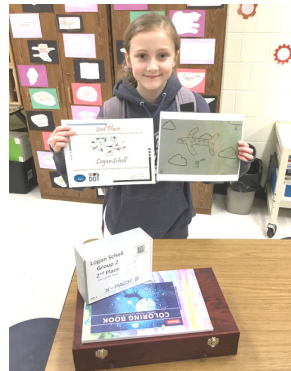
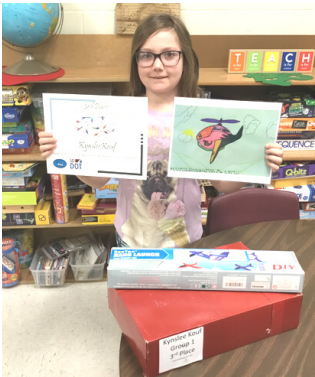
https://dot.sd.gov/transportation/aviation/aerospace-education#listItemLink_1611



Ella's art advanced to the national competition where she took home a **second place finish**.

Jennifer Boehm, Transit Transportation Specialist, noted, "Ella is now moving on to the international level to compete! This is the first time since I started doing the art contest (21 years) that we have had a South Dakota student place at the national level."

The national winners' artwork has been submitted for the 2022 International Aviation Art Contest, which will be judged in June by the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale.



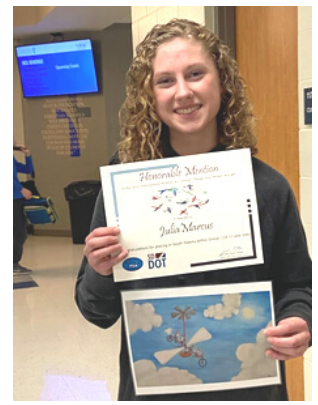
Pictured Left to right are: Kynslee Kouf - 3rd in the Junior category (ages 6-9) Logan Schell - 2nd in the Intermediate category (ages 10-13); and the Schoon family, who had 3 out of 5 kids place or receive honorable mention. Seth won 2nd place in the 14-17 age bracket; Jesse won 1st place in the 10-13 age bracket, and Adrik won Honorable mention in the 14-17 age bracket.



Grace Byers 14 yrs.
3rd Place



Trevor Hoogeveen 13 yrs.
Honorable Mention



Julia Marcus 14 yrs.
Honorable Mention

2022 SD Airports Conference

Jack Dokken, Air, Rail and Transit Program Manager, facilitated the 2022 SD Airports Conference, which was held in Pierre in early April with 125 participants in attendance.

This vital conference is designed for airport managers, finance officers, mayors and other city/county personnel to learn more about opportunities and best practices to efficiently and effectively operate their local airports. SDDOT staff, as well as industry members, provided a variety of presentations.

Despite the profound impact of COVID-19 on the aviation industry, SDDOT was able to distribute \$65 million in pandemic-related funding by working with our federal partners and the our dedicated airport managers. This surge of funding helped our airports remain active, employ people, and airports were able to continue and complete their Airport Improvement Projects.



Since 1935, the South Dakota Aeronautics Commission has served our state. In that timeframe, there has been only 60 individuals appointed to this prestigious group. We were grateful to have had all the current Aeronautics Commissioners attend our conference this year! Our Aeronautics Commissioners perform a vital service to the aeronautical functions in the state and allocate state funds for the development of the statewide system of airports.

Commissioners Left to Right: Dr. Jerry Rieber, Vice-chair Bob Huggins, Rolf Johnson, Dave Luers, Christopher Funk, Chairman Eric Odenbach, Kassidy Nelson, and Secretary Jundt.



Sometimes Work Isn't Fun

by Jim Hyde, Pierre Region Operations

I started with the South Dakota Department of Transportation as a summer seasonal on the survey crew. It was a great job. The survey crew worked hard and had a lot of fun. The Survey Crew Chief would rotate our roles to keep the work from getting monotonous, and to teach us more about surveying.

Some days were longer, some days were hotter, and some days we were needed in more than one place at the same time. The Survey Crew Chief used to tell everyone "You're not here for just a suntan and a paycheck". The Survey Crew Chief understood what needed to be done and what gear we needed to get the work done. He would crack a joke, he might put something funny in an unattended lunch box, and he would make us forget about our sore hands and back. At the end of each day, we were rewarded by seeing all the stakes we pounded into the ground that day.

But everyone has a work assignment that isn't much fun. As a summer seasonal on the survey crew, I didn't like measuring topsoil piles. Measuring them wasn't hard or difficult, I just didn't like it.

Most people have a task at work that they don't enjoy; a task you might think is meaningless or a task you might just think is a low priority and put it on the bottom of the "to do" list.

Here are a few suggestions that might make these tasks more enjoyable.

- Set your own goals; how many can I get done in an hour? More accurately, etc.
- Learn what happens to the work and how the SDDOT uses it.
- Suggest ways to make the task easier or more efficient.
- Ask your supervisor for more control over the task.
- Schedule the task when there's fewer interruptions? You might get done quicker and it will turn out better.
- Schedule the task after a coffee or lunch break when you're rested and possibly more motivated to complete the task.

Measuring topsoil piles can be done with a hand level and cloth tape, electronic survey equipment, or soon we'll be flying a drone over the topsoil pile to measure it. All these methods accomplish the same task; measuring dirt down to a teaspoon.

If the task you don't enjoy is only a small portion of your job, don't let it take control of your attitude. Be grateful for what you have, stop complaining, and try to find a positive spin.

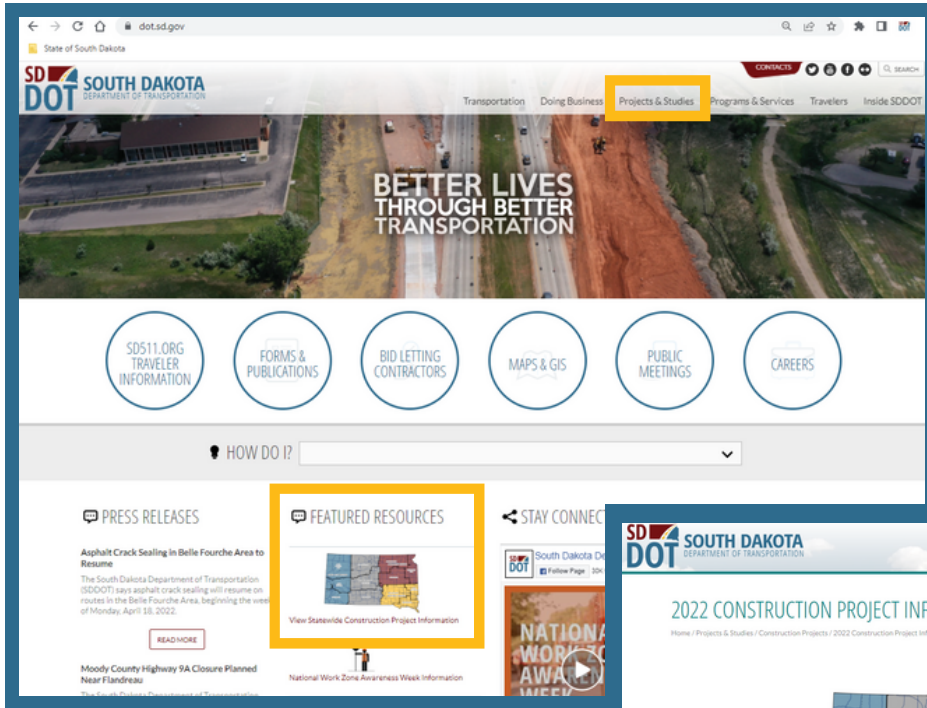
Bottom Line: You don't have to be miserable, even if sometimes work isn't fun.

Take responsibility for finding ways to be happy at work.

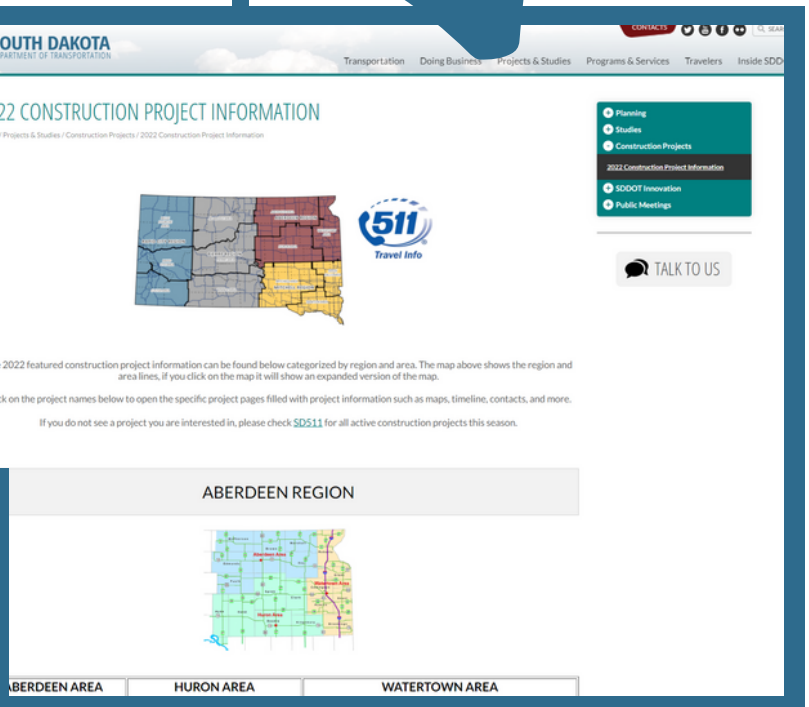
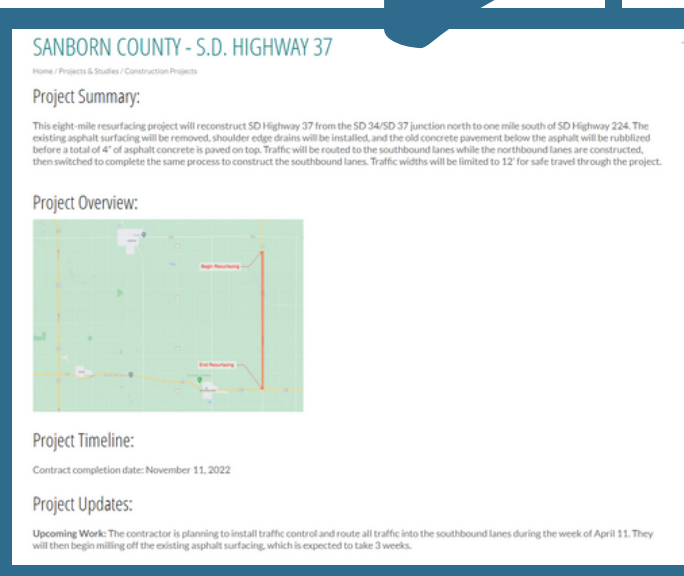
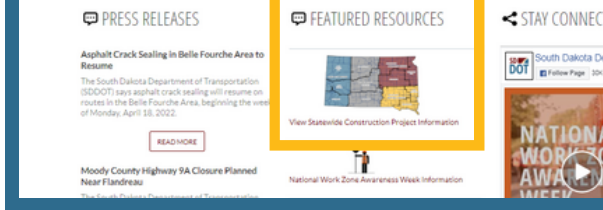
2022 Construction Project Pages

We rolled out new construction project pages within the last month to better guide our customers to find project information.

Find the project pages by navigating to the dot.sd.gov homepage and clicking on the map under the featured resources section or by selecting the heading "Projects and Studies" and "Construction Projects." <https://dot.sd.gov/projects-studies/construction-projects/2022>



The project pages will be updated monthly with completed work to date; and anticipated work over the next month.



Coming Soon: We will be adding links to SD511 back to the featured project pages. The link will show in the blue description box for each featured project page. This connection will help navigate the traveling public back to the project pages to learn more about that particular project.

TRAINING UPDATELearn ~ Engage ~ Improve
April 2022

PROCESSES

NHI 130078: Fracture Critical Inspection Techniques for Steel Bridges

May 3-6 | 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Sioux Falls

High Strength Structural Bolting Workshop

May 3-4 | 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Pierre

TIP: Watch a video or webinar as a group and submit a roster to [training](#) to give everyone credit on their transcript!

ASSETS

NHI 135046: Stream Stability & Scour at Highway Bridges

May 10-12 | 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Pierre



WORKFORCE

New Employee Orientation

May 17-18 | Noon to 5 p.m. and 8 a.m. to Noon | Pierre (location change!)

Upcoming Deadlines:**TLN: Think Outside the Building – Innovating Your Future**

April 26 | 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. | Zoom



SERVICE

TLN: Engineering Ethics – A Pragmatic Approach

April 27 | 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. | Zoom

FEATURED CLASSES on the LMS – April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month**Safety and You Awareness | AFE 7700 | 8 minutes** | We make choices that affect jobsite safety every day. What motivates these choices? Are there ways to influence others and create a safer workplace? Take this course to find out! Ideal learners are all employees.**Driver Fatigue | AFE 7701 | 26 minutes** | Fatigue impairs the ability of a driver to safely operate a large truck or other types of equipment. It leads to accidents that cause vehicle damage, property damage, injury, and even death.**Safe Backing & Turning | AFE 7701 | 29 minutes** | Backing is our weakest skill because we spend 99% of our time driving forward. A consistent defensive approach to backing and turning can reduce the likelihood of driver error. This training is designed to serve as a training tool for new drivers as well as veteran drivers.**It Starts with you: Zero Tolerance | AFE 7701 | 13 minutes** | It's important to note that driver distraction, specifically from cell phone use, has quickly become a leading cause of accidents. The distraction that they cause when used by vehicle operators presents a huge safety risk to the employee, your business, and the public.**NSC WEBINAR -- Combating Distraction | AFE 7701 | April 26 | 10 – 11 a.m.** | Zoom | Distracted Driving Awareness Month and the Transportation Safety Division bring you a discussion on combating distraction in those who drive for work. This session will help you approach and combat distraction with your team, making everyone safer.

Converting Feature Labels to Annotation for Manual Placement

by Kathryn Wesson

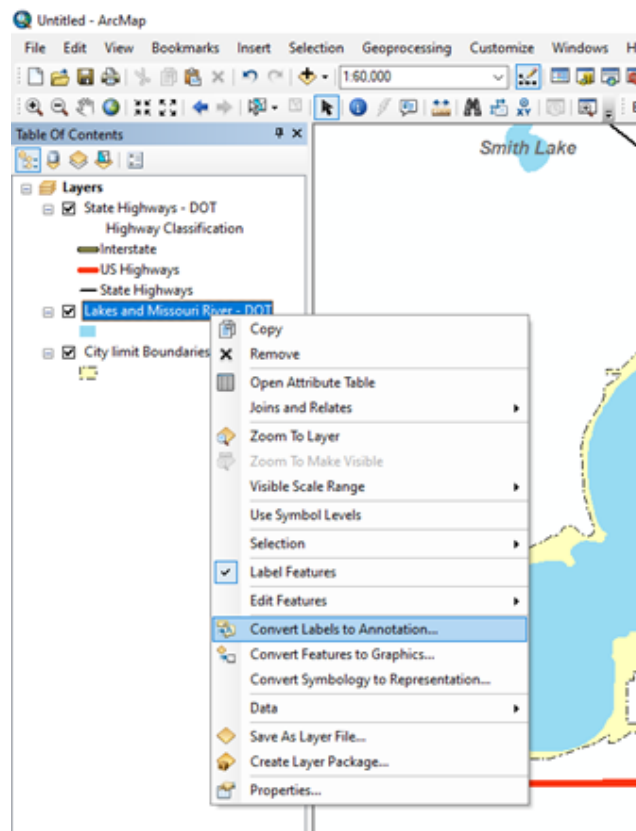
Transportation Specialist I (GIS Analyst)

Have you ever been so frustrated with how ArcMap automatically places your labels that you wish you could just select the text and move it around yourself? Well, this article will discuss exactly that; how to select and move individual labels at your discretion with annotations.

Annotations are a useful alternative to dynamic labeling when you want the text to stay at a fixed position that you choose on your map. Labels can be converted to annotation and stored in a geodatabase or else shown as simple elements within the map document. Storing annotation in a geodatabase is like storing geographic features (lines, points, and polygons) in a geodatabase; so, you can add annotation stored in a geodatabase to any map and it appears as a layer in the table of contents. Map document annotation, on the other hand, is best for situations when you need it for a single map. Since most users in the DOT will typically just need to manually place a small number of labels for a one-off map, this is the more desirable option.

How do you convert labels to annotation in an existing project? It's simple.

1) Right-click the layer in the table of contents and click Convert Labels to Annotation.



continued . . .

Converting Feature Labels to Annotation for Manual Placement Continued . . .

2) Change the radio buttons to store annotation in the map and convert labels only within the current extent. Type a name for the Annotation Group (or use the default name). Turn off the bottom checkbox unless your dynamic labeling settings are causing some labels to disappear that you want visible on the map.

Convert Labels to Annotation

Store Annotation
☐ In a database ☒ In the map

Reference Scale
 1:60,000

Create Annotation For
☐ All features ☒ Features in current extent ☐ Selected features

Feature Layer	Annotation Group
Lakes and Missouri River - DOT	Water Bodies Annotation

Destination: Annotation group stored in the map document

☐ Convert unplaced labels to unplaced annotation **Convert** Cancel

3) Click Convert. Now you can select an individual label from your map, then drag it around to the desired location. As you pan and zoom, the text will stay right where you placed it!

Questions? Contact the GIS team for help!

HALL OF HONOR NOMINATIONS:

Nomination Deadline: Friday, May 20, 2022 at 5 p.m. CDT

Submit completed nominations to:

Department of Transportation - Office of the Secretary / Kari Kroll
 700 East Broadway Ave. Pierre, SD 57501

It is important to note that your candidate may not be familiar to the members of the selection committee. Therefore, a detailed explanation of your candidate's accomplishments is critical to the selection process.

If you have any questions, contact kari.kroll@state.sd.us or 605-773-5105.

April Mentoring Minute

By Matt Dorfschmidt and Kellie Beck



Opportunities Offered

As a participant in the Mentoring Program, opportunities are available that are not usually offered to each and every DOT employee. This past month, as one of our quarterly Mentoring events, the group had the chance to listen to the Transportation Commission meeting being held in Pierre. For those of you who don't know, the Transportation Commission is tasked with awarding or rejecting bids for our projects, as well as many other various tasks. After the meeting, Commissioner Donald Roby of Watertown was generous enough to meet with the group and provide additional insight into Commission duties. He answered many questions about topics covered in the meeting and about the Commission in general.

The second part of the March Mentoring event was attending the Executive Team meeting. The Executive Team consists of the four Region Engineers, Division Directors, Secretary Jundt, and other rotating members. During the meeting we were able to listen to former Highway Safety Engineer, Andy Vandell and current Highway Safety Engineer, Dustin Witt, present information to the Executive Team about national safety campaigns including "Safe Systems" and "Toward Zero Deaths". The initiatives both focus on reducing fatalities on our transportation system to zero and emphasize that even one fatality is too many. While it may take some work to get there, I think everyone in the Department can agree with the sentiment of these initiatives.

Upcoming Mentoring Opportunities

An upcoming opportunity for mentoring program participants is the Midpoint Energizer. Mentoring pairs meet for the afternoon to re-energize the partnership for the second half of the program year. Opportunities will also include on-site construction tours in Rapid City and Sioux Falls, a TBD quarterly event, and our end-of-program celebration.

Interested in learning more? Watch for more details about participating in the Mentoring Program next year!



Mentors and Mentees participate in the Executive Team meeting earlier this month.



Commissioner Roby taking questions and discussing the functions of the Commission.

Rest Areas For Monarchs

Article Written By Paul Clinton, PLA

Provided by Thomas Druyvestein, Operations Maintenance Engineer

As a landscape architect, I find it satisfying to witness the annual return of spring native prairie plant communities. Working in eastern South Dakota has allowed me to be a part of many diverse types of landscape projects. One of my favorite landscape architecture projects over the past several years has been developing and monitoring five pollinator plots at South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) rest areas in the eastern part of the state along Interstate 29.

South Dakota's rural landscape consists of a mix of agriculture and rural urbanization. The fragmentation of the former prairie restricts many species to narrow corridors along roadways as they migrate through the landscape. Landscape nodes are a key component to migration corridors that provide resting areas for the migrating species. These benefits from landscape nodes provide many species a larger and more diverse area for food and shelter. The pollinator project has enhanced the resilience and sustainability of the prairie landscape by converting previously managed landscapes into naturalized habitats with wildflowers and native grasses. The conversion of these traditional rest areas landscape to native landscape improves water infiltration into the soil.

The SDDOT embarked on its **Rest Area Pollinator Plot project** beginning in 2018. This project complements the South Dakota Monarch Conservation and Management Strategic Plan. The project's goal is to establish and increase habitats for the monarch butterfly and other pollinator species in South Dakota. The purpose of the project is to increase habitat by providing food, shelter, and nesting resources on state owned land. The five pollinator plots included in this undertaking cover more than 70 total acres in size with individual sites ranging from 8.5 to 16 acres. The pollinator plots are located at rest areas in Roberts, Moody, and Deuel counties along the north-south I-29 corridor which corresponds to the monarch butterfly migration path. The rest areas are anywhere from 46 to 53 miles apart and are compatible with the daily flight distances of the monarch butterfly.



Photograph 3: Great Lakes Rest Area (RA) Roberts Co



Photograph 5: Hiawatha 5 (Southbound Rest Area)

Rest Areas For Monarchs Continued . . .

IMEG Corp (IMEG) worked closely with the SDDOT, the seed supplier, and contractor to develop a pollinator seed mix which included over 50 native forbes and grasses. At the time of planting, modifications were made to the base mix to accommodate the availability of individual species. The necessary changes to the seed mix also needed to consider providing species in the three blooming periods of spring, summer, and fall. The challenge of developing a successful management strategy at these five rest areas required a balanced use of available tools and techniques to provide the least damaging approach to site maintenance while protecting the pollinator insect species and effectively controlling invasive and noxious weeds. Due to the sensitivity of the habitat, spot spraying and selective mowing techniques were implemented to focus only on areas with the largest population of invasive species.

Measuring the success of the pollinator plots utilizes the floristic quality index (FQI) as a rapid assessment technique. After a three-year establishment period, the FQI scores have registered in the high-quality scoring range. In addition to the FQI assessment, ground cover percentage is also being used as a monitoring tool. The ground cover is ranging from 60 to 100 percent. As a result of using FQI, ground cover, and visual assessments, the areas in need of weed and invasive species control is approximately 10 percent of the total area.

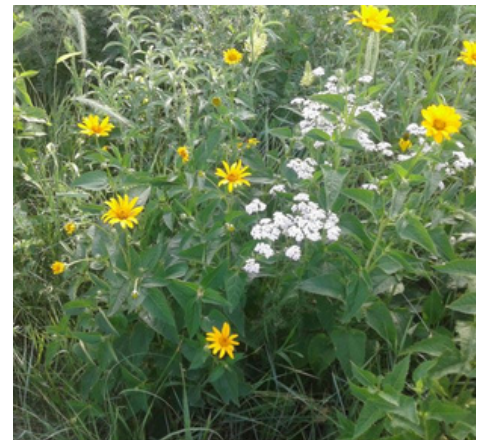
In 2020, as part of the pollinator monitoring plan we began counting the milkweed stems. The sampling criteria was based on having greater than 6 stems per 1,500 square feet. In 2020 a total of 12 patches with 898 stems were recorded. In 2021, a total of 62 patches with 1,738 stems were recorded.

This large-scale pollinator habitat project is the first of its kind for the SDDOT. Their undertaking of this project allows us as a community to enjoy the annual emerging beauty of the prairie landscape. It is understandable why we celebrate Earth Day, as well as World Landscape Architecture Month in April. As a landscape architect, creating, preserving, and re-introducing prairie landscapes is rewarding.

Paul Clinton is a Professional Landscape Architect and Wetland Delineator with IMEG Corp. He is involved in all aspects of landscape design, construction, and project management. Paul is experienced in site plans, landscape design, environmental permitting, environmental assessments, natural resource preservation, stream restoration, native planting, bank stabilization, and the construction and maintenance of wetlands.



Photograph 2: Flower mix with milkweed



Photograph 1: Late sunflower mix



National Work Zone Awareness Week:

Thanks to everyone who provided creative **GO Orange Day** photos, participated in promotional videos, and gave media interviews!

Find all public NWZAW engagement items at:

<https://dot.sd.gov/inside-sddot/of-interest/work-zone-awareness-week>



Construction Safety Week is May 2-6, 2022.

<https://www.constructionsafetyweek.com/>

During this week, the construction industry, its clients, and business partners take the opportunity to recommit to sending every worker home safe each day.

Safety is a value, a belief, and an obligation that unites us across individual teams, companies, and the entire industry. It's a connection that is seen and felt between our fellow workers on the job site, between office, management and craft, and among our partnering companies who stand together to keep everyone safe and improve our safety culture industry-wide.

We are responsible for the wellbeing and safety of everyone on every job site. And it is through this connectedness that we are able to ensure everyone can do their best work and return home safely every day.

Promote safety this summer by using this uniquely designed **FOCUS ON THE ROAD AHEAD Teams background** to bring awareness to the dangers of distracted driving and the importance of keeping all construction zones safe!



<M:\DOT\Common\DOTPictures&Logos\Teams Backgrounds>

Generational Knowledge

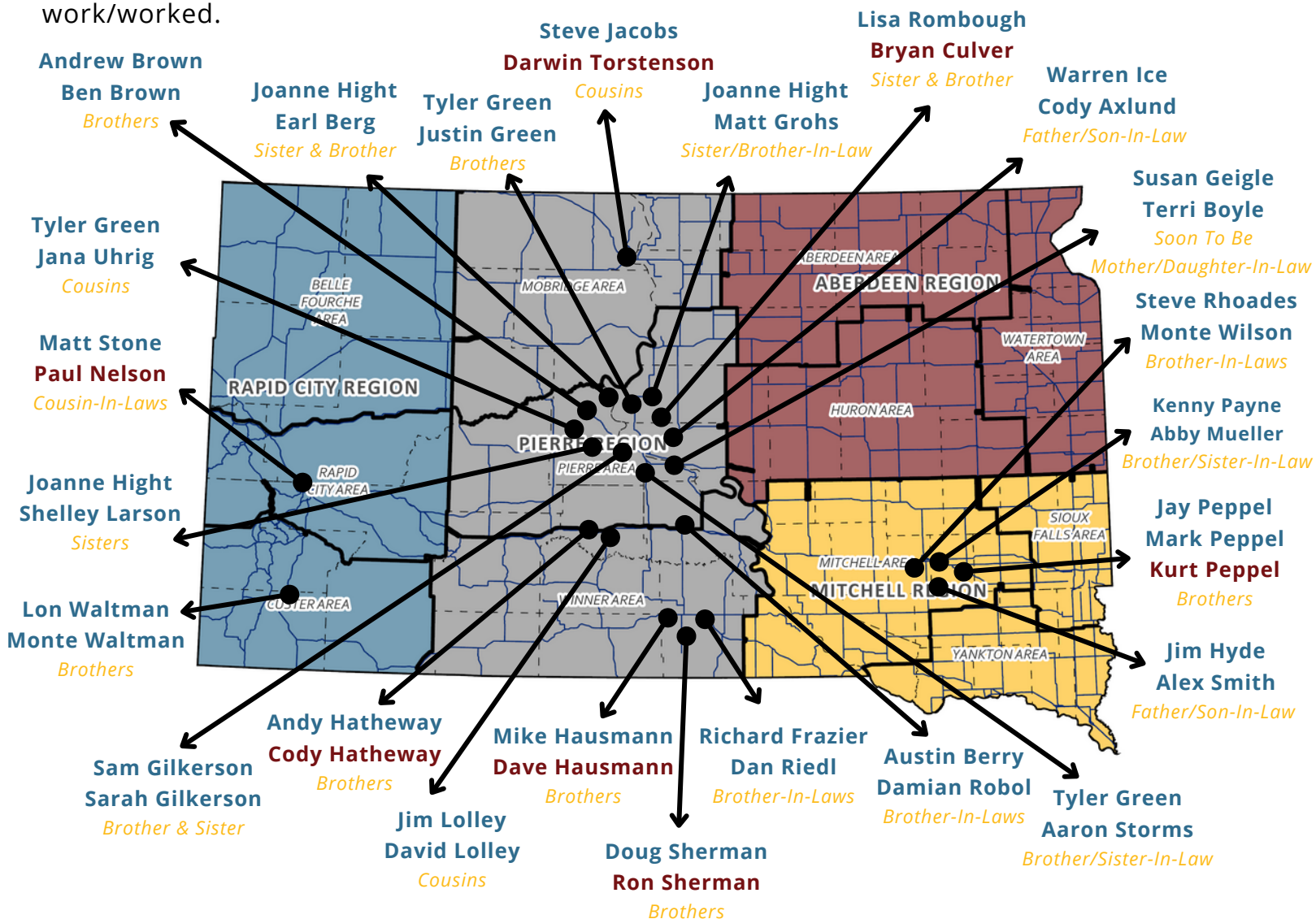
Decades of SDDOT Experience

For many of our colleagues, SDDOT has been the career choice among multiple generations. Positive SDDOT work experiences prompt future generations to seek education and experience to pursue a career within the SDDOT.

In last months newsletter we took a look at the generational knowledge passed down from parents and children within the SDDOT. This month we look at the brothers, sisters, cousins, and in-laws who work together to build a better transportation system for South Dakota!

We appreciate this generational story idea that was given through the Connecting the DOTS newsletter survey! Due to the outpouring of responses; we will continue to highlight SDDOT generational family connecting points in upcoming newsletters.

Map Key: Current DOT employees are in blue text. Former DOT employees are in red text; and the relationship is noted in yellow. Arrows indicate the general area which the employees work/worked.



If you have information for this multi-part series, please email: bret.mattice@state.sd.us

SDDOT Employee News and Updates. . .

In sympathy with our SDDOT teammates across the state . . .



Our Sympathy to **Neil Schochenmaier, Engineering Supervisor in the Road Design Office**, on the passing of his father, Aldrew Schochenmaier. Funeral Services for Aldrew were held March 30, 2022, at Zion Lutheran Church in Bonesteel with burial in the Rosebud Cemetery in Bonesteel.



Webster Lead Highway Maintenance Worker, Todd Hanson passed away at age 54 on Wednesday April 20, 2022, after a courageous fight with cancer.

Upon graduation from Webster High School in 1985, Todd began his SDDOT career that spanned 35 years, not hanging up his hat until March 30, 2022.

Bruce Schroeder, Aberdeen Area Engineer noted, "Todd will be greatly missed, his actions spoke louder than his words. He led his shop with a quiet level-headed demeanor that earned the respect of those who knew him. Please keep Todd's family in your thoughts and prayers."

<https://www.coesterfuneralhome.net/obituary/todd-hanson>

Branded Personal Apparel:

We completed our first statewide personal branded apparel order. If you are interested in having an item branded at any time, please contact:

Dustin Pischel, Garment Shop Foreman, Pheasantland Industries
605.369.4426 or dustin.pischel@state.sd.us



Pictured are the 2022 top bowlers in Pierre!
Winners include:

Cameron McKibbin/Kristina Harms - 1st
(in center holding the trophy)

Tom Kallemeyn/Laura Blotske - 2nd

Dave Madden/Christina Bennett - 3rd

Jim Hyde/Hannah Covey - 4th

SDDOT Employee News and Updates. . .

April Longevity:

David Fischer, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker – 20 years (Yankton Area)
Scott Schneider, Senior Road Designer Engineer – 35 years (Aberdeen Region)
Marilyn Patterson, Agreement/Work Program Coordinator – 45 years (Central Office)
Tim Boehmer, Project Technician – 30 years (Sioux Falls Area)
Bryce Olson, Project Engineer – 25 years (Watertown Area)
Joan Hakeman, Senior Secretary – 25 years (Watertown Area)
Jeremie Mackie, Highway Maintenance Worker – 20 years (Rapid City Region)
Doug Kinniburgh, Local Government Engineer Manager – 30 years (Central Office)

New Hires:

Alec Whitney, Journey Transportation Tech (Pierre)
Jesse Spitzer, Highway Maintenance Worker (Leola)
John Bren, Highway Maintenance Worker (Pierre)
Jonah Schmagel, Project Engineer (Belle Fourche)
James Hammer, Journey Transportation Tech (Pierre)
Theron Singleton, Region Design Engineer (Rapid City)
Miranda Middleton, Senior Secretary (Pierre)
Douglas O'Neill, Highway Maintenance Worker (Mitchell)

Promotions and Lateral Position Changes:

Jay Mueller, Region Operations Technician (Mitchell)
Kraig Engen, Project Technician (Watertown)
Andrew Prickett, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker (Mitchell)
Larry Cyr, Project Engineer (Belle Fourche)
Tanner Fitzke, Chief Materials & Surfacing Engineer (Pierre)
Dale Healey, Highway Safety Planning Engineer (Pierre)
Austin Weiss, Journey Transportation Tech (Pierre)
Robert Farrell, Region Traffic Engineer (Rapid City)
Jordan Lipp, Journey Transportation Tech (Mitchell)

TKS and Leave Balances:

Effective April 24, 2022, TKS will show actual vacation and sick leave balances on the timesheet; it will not include the leave that will be accrued that pay period (the unofficial balance).

Starting April 24, the balance in TKS will match your previous pay stub.

SDDOT Employee News and Updates. . .



Jeff Gustafsen, Operations Engineer (Mitchell Region), receiving his 35-year plaque from **Travis Dressen, Mitchell Region Engineer.**



Joan Hakeman, Watertown Area Senior Secretary, earned her 25-year longevity pin!



Tom Horan, Operations Engineer (Rapid City Region), received his 35-year pin from **Tom Seaman, Rapid City Region Engineer.**



Tim Boehmer, Project Technician, received his 30-year plaque from **Jared Pfaff, Sioux Falls Area Engineering Supervisor.**

SDDOT Employee News and Updates. . .



Bryce R. Olson, Project Engineer, Watertown Area, celebrated 25 years with the SDDOT in April.



Patti Devitt, Accounting Manager, presented **Mary Hoyt, Accountant II,** with her 10 year pin at a recent Finance meeting.



Jay Peppel, Mitchell Area Engineer, was commonly found on the hardwood during his time at the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology (SDSM&T). While Jay was on the team, the 1991-92 SDSM&T Hardrockers Men's Basketball Program, was one of the best in Hardrockers history. The team tops the list for most wins in a season (22) and is tied for most consecutive wins in a season (11). They also hold records for most points scored in a season (2,735), most 3-point shots made in a season (294), highest free throw percentage (76.7%), and numerous other school records.

In 2021, the team was officially inducted into the Hardrockers Hall of Fame. Congratulations to Jay and his teammates on this tremendous honor.

SDDOT Employee News and Updates . . .



Barrett Evan Secker was born on March 21, 2022. He weighed in at 7 lbs. 3 oz. and was 19.5" in length. Barrett's parents are Rachel and Logen Secker.

Barrett is the grandson of Doug Sherman, Winner Area Engineer, and his wife Valerie.



Folks from Pierre (central office, area, region, retired) volunteered at Feeding South Dakota on March 31, 2022. They packaged 538 boxes which was just short of 11 pallets in less than two hours.

1st row – Karla Engle, Lana Lambert, Kari Kroll

2nd row – John DeBoer, Margo McDowell, Mark Liang, Larry Dean, Branka Radulovic, Karen Olson (retired), Connie Johnson, Tiffany Hanisch, Alice Whitebird (retired)

3rd row - Chris Jundt (retired), Sarah Gilkerson, Jonathan Egge, Doug Gorham, Joel Jundt

Not shown – Kristina Harms

